

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Citizen Service

2005 Annual Report

Walter Leffler
**Volunteer
Of the Year**

A Look at National
Service in Maine

**2005 Governor's
Service Awards
Honorees**

Using VolunteerMaine
for Online Recruiting

Volunteering with
Operation KeepMEwarm



A simple act of kindness
Can cause a
ripple.

Community Service has a lasting effect on communities and citizens.

Right now volunteers in your community are
feeding the homeless, mentoring children,
building ramps for the disabled and helping the elderly.
They are making a difference.
Are you?

Make a ripple. Volunteer.



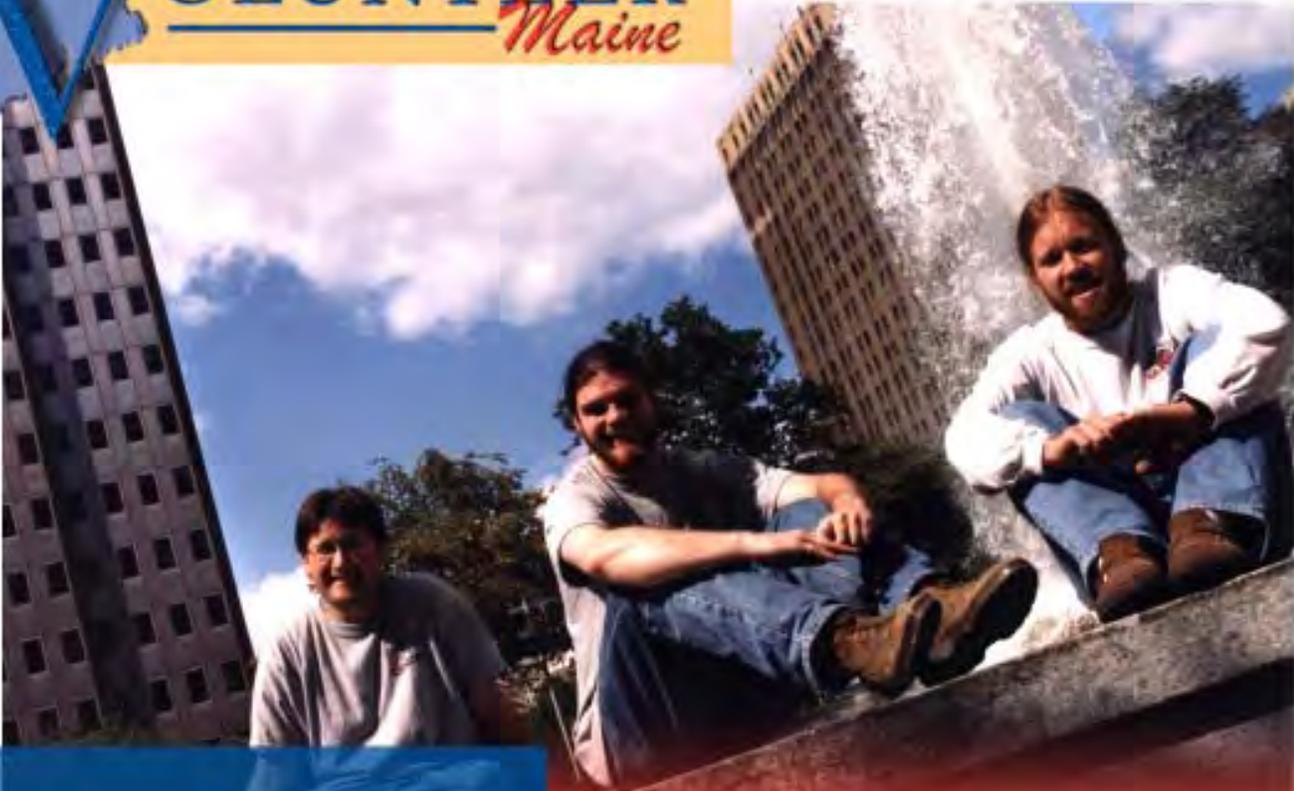
MAINE COMMISSION *for*
COMMUNITY SERVICE

www.maineservicecommission.gov



OLUNTEER
Maine

"The Way Maine Cares"



VolunteerMaine.org

Are you a Volunteer
Looking for a Way to
Help Your Community?

Are you an Agency In
Need of Volunteer
assistance?

Log on to:
VolunteerMaine.org

Brought to you by the
VolunteerMaine Partnership



Introducing **VolunteerMaine.org**, a statewide link between agencies looking for volunteers and people interested in volunteering.

It's **FREE**. It's **EASY TO USE**. It **REACHES** the entire state. It **WORKS** for all public, non-profit, emergency management and civic organizations.

Volunteers

- Search by Zip Code, Interest, Time Availability or Skill Set
- Stay Anonymous or Set Up a Profile
- Contact Volunteer Programs Immediately (Personal Profile users only)

Agencies

- Post Volunteer Opportunities
- Find Board and Committee Members
- Link to Donated Supplies/Equipment
- List Special Events and Projects
- Register Volunteers
- Track Donated Time
- And Much More!

contents

MCCS annual report

features

commission news

- 6** A Message from the Chair
Commission Chair, Paula Gagnon, reflects on volunteerism in Maine in 2005.
- 8** MCCS Commissioner Listing
- 9** Statutory Duty Performance
An overview of the Commission's work in 2005.
- 14** Anniversary Celebration
Celebrating ten years of service through service opportunities.
- 18** Governor's Service Awards
An overview of the 2005 honorees.
- 20** Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism
- 21** Operation KeepMEwarm
The state's largest volunteer effort keeps low income seniors and families warm this winter.
- 24** Online with VolunteerMaine
A new partnership provides a free online website for nonprofits, emergency management, civic organizations and volunteers to connect.

on the cover



Walter Leffler 18
Nat'l Service 26
Governor's Service Awards 18
VolunteerMaine 24
Operation KeepMEwarm 21

COVER PHOTOGRAPH
Courtesy of Southern Maine
Medical Center

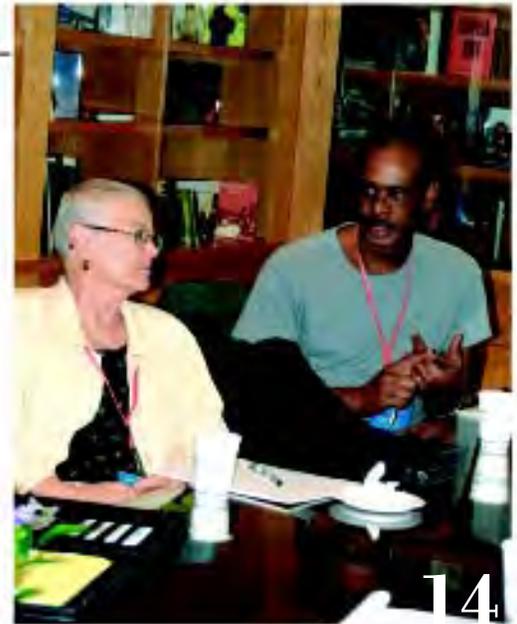
national service in Maine

- 26** A Look at Nat'l Service in Maine
- 27** AmeriCorps Grantees Overview
- 34** AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs
- 35** Learn and Serve in Our Schools
- 36** Senior Corps in Maine

information

- 38** Program Directory
- 39** Programs by County

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14



24



26



Buckle Up.

In 2005, over 51,000 Mainers received home heating assistance from LIHEAP. The average benefit per household bought only 179 gallons of fuel, barely enough to fill an oil tank one time.

Operation Keep ME warm relies on volunteers to help “buckle up” the homes of these needy citizens in an effort to reduce their heating and energy cost. But it’s not enough. We need your help.

The **Keep ME Warm Fund**, a public and private collaboration, has been established to help our neighbors most in need cope with the rising cost of fuel. Through your kind donation, money collected will be distributed to local agencies to help citizens with heating assistance in 2006.

Donate via credit card with Mastercard or Visa at
1-800-698-4959, ext. 336

Or mail a check payable to Keep ME Warm Fund to:

Keep ME Warm Fund
510 Cumberland Ave.
Portland, ME 04101



Fostering community service in Maine

The Maine Commission for Community Service is a 26 member board established to foster community service and volunteerism to meet the human and environmental needs of the State of Maine. Created through an executive order in 1994 and established by state statute in 1995, the Commission strives to sustain vibrant, productive communities with involved, responsible citizens.

Our Statute

"There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs throughout the State; serve as the State's liaison regarding national and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service agencies; receive gifts and grants; implement statewide service programs and make subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, Public Law 108-02."

-5 MRSA Chp. 373, section 7501

Our Board Members

Commission Board Members are appointed by the Governor for three year terms and reflect a diverse, bi-partisan group actively engaged in community service, and represent every region of the state.

What We Do

The Commission develops the state vision for volunteer service; cultivates collaboration among public and private volunteer service programs; serves as a clearinghouse for people interested in service and agencies recruiting volunteers; sets Maine's priorities for funding National Service programs; prepares the state application for federal funds; administers subgrants; provides training and technical assistance for National Service programs in Maine; and carries out fundraising efforts to supplement federal funding for volunteer service.

chair notes



celebrating ten years of service

For more than a decade, the Maine Commission for Community Service has been working to increase the state's voluntary sector capacity. We do so primarily through our work with non-profits, state and local governments, schools, hospitals, and many other organizations that use volunteers.

We take pride in our ability to connect people in need with those willing to help. In fact, it is what we do best. In 2005, we established the VolunteerMaine Partnership with the ten United Ways of Maine, MEMA, VOAD and others. We coordinated Operation KeepMEwarm, connecting over 1,600 volunteers with low income seniors and families. We brought Canadian officials to our state to talk about how government can work with the voluntary sector to extend limited state resources, and we matched over 85 AmeriCorps members with organizations throughout the state to address important local needs.

When it comes to creating relationships that are vital to improving the lives of Maine people, the Commission is always up to the challenge. We hope that after reading our accomplishments, you will take on that challenge as well.

Paula Gagnon
MCCS Board Chair
York County Community College



ONE in FOUR AMERICANS VOLUNTEER. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

The Corporation for National and Community Service plays a vital role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service and responsibility. Through our **Senior Corps**, **AmeriCorps**, and **Learn and Serve America** programs, we provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to express their patriotism while addressing critical community needs. For more information on how you can take part in the national service movement, visit nationalservice.org or e-mail info@cns.gov.



BOARD CHAIR Paula Gagnon, KENNEBUNK, *York County Community College*
VICE-CHAIR: Carol Ann Dube, FORT KENT, *Northern Maine Medical Center*
SECRETARY: Judi Stebbins, WINTHROP, *Griffiths Associates*

CitizenService

Maine Commission for Community Service

2006 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Susan Cheeseman	CONCORD, NH, <i>CNCS</i>	Kenneth Morse	NORWAY, <i>Healthy Oxford Hills/Western Maine</i>
Quenten Clark	FARMINGTON, <i>MSAD #58</i>	Amy Nunan	AUGUSTA, <i>Getting Healthy</i>
Peter Crockett	CHELSEA, <i>Maine AFL-CIO</i>	Victoria Scott	CAMBDEN, <i>Penobscot School</i>
Greg DeWitt	LITCHFIELD, <i>Retired</i>	Fred Schlutt	ORONO, <i>UMaine Cooperative Extension</i>
Gary Dorman	BANGOR, <i>Penquis CAP, Foster Grandparents</i>	Al Smith	BATH, <i>City of Bath Community Development</i>
Patsy Dunton	AUGUSTA, <i>Me Department of Education</i>	Sarah Stevens	BANGOR, <i>Staff for Congressman Michaud</i>
Carla Ganiel	BERNARD, <i>Arden Training & Consulting</i>	Peter Taylor	BELFAST, <i>Maine Community Foundation</i>
Ron Holmes	NEW SHARON, <i>Wausau Paper</i>	Gil Ward	LEEDS, <i>Rural Community Action Ministries</i>

MEMBERS COMPLETING TERMS OF SERVICE

Denyse Anderson, Topsham, *Wright Pierce* **Rae Clark-McGrath**, Cape Elizabeth, *Foster Grandparents/Senior Companion Program* **Art Cleaves**, Augusta, *Maine Emergency Management Agency* **Chip Curry**, Knox, *Communities for Children and Youth* **Randall Curtis**, Morrill **Christine Force**, Portland, *Portland Regional Chamber* **J. Alex Hildebrand**, Portland, *Maine Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics* **Sherri Mitchell**, Edinburg, *Four Directions Development* **Elisa Paylor**, Waterville, *University of Southern Maine* **Lynda Rohman**, Bangor, *Eastern Maine Medical Center* **Walter Rosen**, Brunswick, *Retired* **Susanne Sandusky**, Mapleton, *Aroostook Community Action Program* **John Stivers**, Topsham, *Maine Dept. of Education*

COMMISSION STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Maryalice Crofton
PROGRAM OFFICER: Anne Schink
PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE: Kim Goding
GRANTS MANAGEMENT: Tony VanDenBossche, Catherine Levesque
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Donna Bradstreet



strategic duties



Reaching Goals

The Commission accomplishes the strategic duties outlined by state statute and regulated by the legislature.

Statutory Duty: Develop a three year comprehensive national and community service plan.

As required by the legislature, the Commission developed its 2006-2009 Strategic Plan with the objective to better serve Maine's communities while increasing the capacity of volunteerism in the state. The goals, objectives and strategies that emerged were defined by a statewide survey of Maine non-profits and agencies that rely on volunteers and community service to operate (210 respondents).

Although the survey gave respondents several opportunities to identify emerging issues not reflected in the questions, the needs cited were elements drawn from assessments by other public

agencies statewide. The priorities to be addresses by MCCS funding are the top ten issues cited in the survey as critical needs which volunteers are likely to impact. In addition, four issues related to the sustainability of volunteer programs were defined:

- wide-spread use of all essential volunteer management practices so that local volunteer programs successfully attract resources (volunteers, financial, partners) and operate effectively over sustained periods of time;
- accessible professional development opportunities for volunteer managers that are tied to the profession's core competencies and reflect the novice to expert continuum of experience;
- a comprehensive system that not only connects citizens of all

ages to volunteer opportunities, but also helps volunteer managers in a variety of settings (nonprofit, emergency management, public agencies) with basic program operation including volunteer recruitment, screening, deployment, and task support;

- direct, targeted involvement of full-time as well as part-time National Service participants in volunteer programs that address critical local needs, expand involvement of local volunteers, and measurably improve local conditions.

Statutory Duty: Serve as a clearinghouse for people interested in service and agencies recruiting.

MCCS continues to provide opportunities for Maine's volunteer sector



and citizens to connect. Through our web sites *VolunteerMaine.org*, *MaineServiceCommission.gov*, volunteers and agencies in need of volunteers can find tools and resources to assist in building the capacity of their organizations and communities. The Commission continuously posts volunteer management articles, statistical data and reports on its two websites.

VolunteerFare, Maine's only statewide e-newsletter on volunteerism, is distributed monthly to over 1,000 individuals and agencies. This online resource gathers information from its readers and distributes it monthly to interested parties. Included in *VolunteerFare* are articles on volunteer management, available trainings, upcoming conference information, grant opportunities, stories on volunteers and volunteer programs, news from the Corporation for National and Community Service and much more.

Combine the number of our e-newsletter subscribers with the people we reach through our AmeriCorps recruitment efforts (i.e. college fairs, newspaper and magazine advertisements, public appearances, trainings, etc.), MCCS is making its mark among the state's volunteer community.

Statutory Duty: Cultivate collaboration among public and private volunteer service programs.

VolunteerMaine Partnership. A first of its kind collaboration, MCCS was the driving force in bringing together the ten United Ways of Maine, MEMA, Volunteers Organized Against Disasters (VOAD), Maine 211, The Board Network, WCSH6 and Clear Channel to form the Volunteer Maine Partnership (p.24). The partners' main objective is to cultivate community through the development and maintenance of the website *VolunteerMaine.org*, a free statewide volunteer database connecting volunteers with non-profit agencies that need assistance.

Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative. Exploring the importance of volunteers to a state and its government, MCCS collaborated with federal and provincial Canadian leaders for a one day service symposium in Bangor (pg.16). Voluntary Sector policy makers from Canada and Maine met to discuss the sector and its impact on leveraging state and local resources. Due to the success of the event, MCCS has been asked to help New Brunswick officials gather U.S. experts to participate in a follow-up symposium in their province in August 2006.

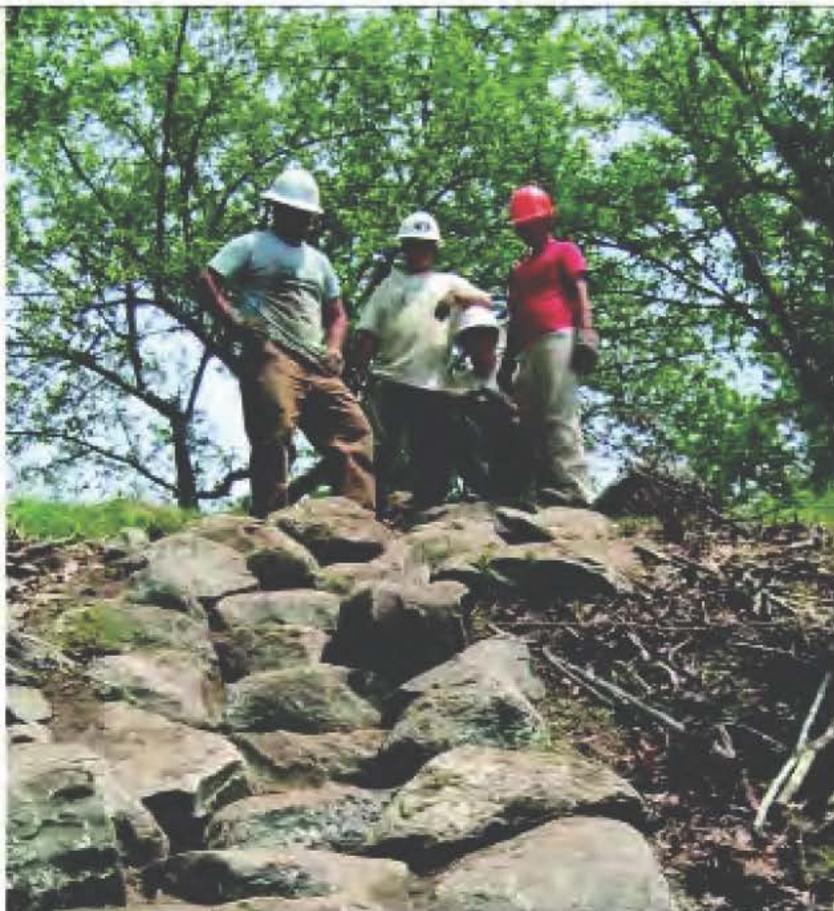
Governor's Office on Energy Independence and Security/Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA). Through the work of MCCS, the Governor's Office and MSHA, over 2,600 homes in Maine were winterized in 2005 by more than 1,600 volunteers. (pg.21)

University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS). MCCA, with the guidance of CCIDS, continues to encourage organizations to provide volunteer opportunities for persons with disabilities. This year three AmeriCorps mini-grants supported service projects that benefited persons with disabilities (p.23).

Maine Volunteer Connection (MVC). Partnering with MVC, a private non-profit, MCCA co-sponsored the 2005 Governor's Service Awards (p.18) and the 19th Annual Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism (p.20).

Muskie School Institute for Public Sector Innovation. MCCA continues to work with the Muskie School and University of Southern Maine to establish a certification program for Volunteer Managers.

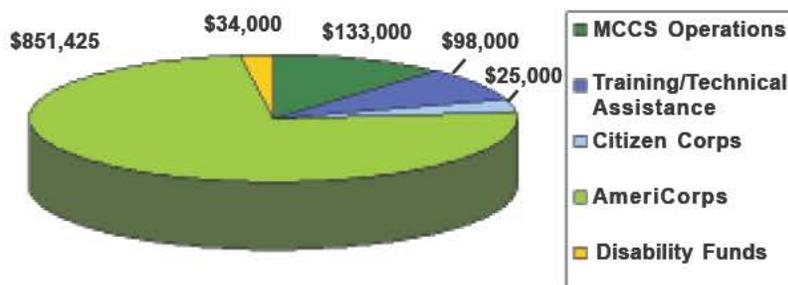
Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. A major partner in administering the Maine American Chestnut Project, a K-12 service learning experience, the foundation, MCCA, and 72 schools planted Chestnut trees throughout the state in an effort for its revitalization.



Statutory Duty: Select Programs to be Funded Under National Service

In 2005 MCCA conducted a mid-term grant competition. New AmeriCorps awards were made bringing the total number of Maine AmeriCorps funded programs to six. Those programs include Community Resource Corps, Emergency Response Corps, Maine Conservation Corps, Maine Independence Corps, Maine Rural Health Corps and the Island Institute Fellows Program. Grantees were selected for their planned impact on Maine's communities in alignment with MCCA funding priorities.

Federal Funds Administered by MCCA
\$1,141,425



statutory duties continued from page 11

Statutory Duty: Provide training and technical assistance to National Service Programs in Maine.

MCCS provides ongoing training and technical assistance such as conferences, workshops, support, coaching and mentoring to National Service staff. In 2005, MCCS:

- Provided volunteer management training to 163 program directors and AmeriCorps members at the Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism.
- Convened Staff Council where AmeriCorps and VISTA directors met monthly for resource sharing and peer-to-peer training.



- Provided a series of trainings for non-profits throughout the state on how to register and use VolunteerMaine.org as a volunteer management tool (pg.24).
- Conducted a one-day conference for AmeriCorps members tied to the availability of mini-grants to conduct community service projects engaging groups or individuals with disabilities in the planning and implementation of the project.
- Trained Service Learning Coordinators on marketing and communicating their message at the annual New England Service Learning Conference.



- Coordinated the Tri-State Conference, a collaborative training between state service commissions in ME, NH, VT and CNCS for 50 National Service Program Directors.
- Through the National Senior Service Council, provided information and staff support to Senior Corps program directors.
- Conducted an AmeriCorps Opening Day for new members. Members received orientation on National Service and trained on how to connect and find resources in their community.
- Held a Staff Council Retreat in July for AmeriCorps and VISTA program directors to examine volunteer management competencies.



“It was the first time I remember feeling truly happy.

It’s selfish, really, but if I can make them feel safe for just one day, then it makes me feel good.”



Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer Mike Jones, a former teacher and counselor, worked with evacuees at the Austin Convention Center following Hurricane Katrina. Among other duties, Mike watched over Amoni and ensured that he and his three brothers safely got on the right bus for school each morning.

**To learn more about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program
and other Senior Corps Programs in Maine visit**

www.SeniorCorps.org

or call

1-800-424-8867

TTY 1-800-833-3722



anniversary

decade of service

For the past decade, the Maine Commission for Community Service has guided and protected the most valuable asset our state has to offer: community.

In 2005, the Maine Commission for Community Service celebrated its tenth anniversary. Having been established under Governor McKernan through an Executive Order in late 1994 and recognized under state statute a few months later in 1995, the Commission has spent the past ten year fostering community service and volunteerism to meet the human and environmental needs of the people of Maine.

To celebrate ten years of service, the Commission spent our anniversary year providing opportunities for people to experience the importance of community and volunteerism. We did so through the Martin Luther King Day of Service, the Maine American Chestnut Service Learning Project for students K-12, a symposium with our Canadian counterparts, a music composition contest, and a photo contest. Here are the highlights from our tenth anniversary year.



SERVICE SYMPOSIUM
In June, U.S. and Canadian leaders in the voluntary sector met at a one day symposium to discuss the impact volunteerism has on increasing the capacity of state and local resources. Attendees spent the day thoroughly examining Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative and discussed how it could be applicable to Maine. Kyle Caldwell (above) from Connect Michigan and the American Association of State Service Commissions speaks to attendees. (pg.16)



EYE ON SERVICE
This statewide photo contest asked amateur and professional photographers to send their best photos of community service in action. Phil Morse of Arundel won top honors with his photo "Follow Me" depicting a Kennebunk middle school student spending the day mentoring a kindergardener.



STANZA FOR SERVICE
Deiran Manning (above) of Winter Harbor plays his original piano composition for the Governor at the 2005 Service Awards. Deiran won top honors in the Stanza for Service music contest where students K-12 were encouraged to submit original music compositions reflecting on community.

MAINE CHESTNUT PROJECT
Launched in 2004 by First Lady Karen Baldacci, this service learning project had over 500 participating students. K-12 students spent the year studying the chestnut tree, growing their own seedlings and finding places in the community to plant them. Through this service learning project, the Chestnut Tree population in Maine was increased by over 600%.



SERVICE WORDS

In the fall of 2005, the Commission hosted the Service Words Writing Contest, a competition for Mainer's to send in stories and poems on volunteerism and community. The result was the Commission's first ever published book, "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Things", a collection of fourteen literary works reflecting on the impact people have on their community.



MLK Day of Service

Eight service projects were funded by the Commission in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy of service. From a resume writing workshop for persons with language barriers to students providing blankets to teens at a local crisis center to painting ceramic tiles on diversity to be placed around the community, youth groups across the state honored the value of Dr. King's work.

"An important lesson I learned was how to be a leader — an assertive, self-starter, take charge kind of person which I wasn't before."

www.AmeriCorps.org

To learn more about AmeriCorps call 1-800-942-2677 or email questions@americorps.org.

**Investing in Maine.
One person at a time.**

CULTIVATION

HOST SITES WANTED

The Training Resource Center (TRC) is seeking host sites for AmeriCorps program, Community Resource Corps. Host sites will be assigned an AmeriCorps member to assist in providing services to their community in the areas of youth based service learning activities, preventative health care, home energy conservation or affordable housing. There is a cost share requirement. For more information contact TRC at (207) 775-5891, ext. 428.

SEE PAGE 29

service symposium



Top: Participants at the Service Symposium examined Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative and how it could be applied to non-profits, state and local government and other organizations that use volunteers.

Below: Marie Gauthier, Director of the Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Affairs Division at Social Development Canada, delivers her keynote address to the 70+ attendees at the day long symposium.



In June 2005, over 60 of Maine's leading policy makers in the non-profit and voluntary sector met with Canadian officials at a first-of-its-kind international symposium to discuss the role volunteers could play in expanding state and local government resources in Maine. Hosted by the Maine Commission for Community Service and held at the Buchanan Alumni House in Orono, the symposium was created to provide an opportunity for Maine's strategic thinkers to explore Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI).

"The service symposium was an excellent opportunity for Maine's leaders in the non-profit and voluntary sector to join forces and really look at the impact volunteers can have on communities. We explored how the Canadians integrated volunteerism into their government, and examined the possible benefits, challenges, and opportunities of developing a similar voluntary initiative in Maine," stated Paula Gagnon, chair elect of the Maine Commission.

A five year research project in the making, Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative is a co-managed government experiment aimed at building a working relationship between the federal government and the voluntary sector. In 2001, Canadian officials signed the Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector. Rooted in the 2001 United Nation's International Year of Volunteers, Canada, along with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, all convened initiatives to strengthen the relationship between each country's government and its voluntary sector. Canada has gone the furthest with its implementation.

In a recent Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating, it was found that more than 6.5 millions Canadians volunteered just over 1 billion hours of their time to charitable and voluntary organizations – the equivalent of 549,000 full time jobs. Over 40% of their 78,000 charitable organizations have no paid staff and rely exclusively on volunteers to carry out their missions.

“The [Canadian] government’s policies and programs are better when they benefit from the voluntary sector’s experience, expertise, knowledge and ideas. The VSI recognizes the need to search for new answers to deal with limited human resources and supports conditions for innovation, partnerships and strategic alliances within the voluntary sector to share and leverage government resources, reduce inefficiencies and maximize reach,” remarked Marie Gauthier, Director of the Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Affairs Division at Social Development Canada, in her keynote address.

In addition to Gauthier, other speakers at the event included Penelope Rowe, Chief Executive Officer of the Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador; Cheryl O’Toole, Director of Strategic Services for Social Development Canada, New Brunswick; Rick Hutchins, Animator with PolicyLink NB; and Kyle Caldwell, Chair of the American Association of US State Commissions who spoke of the trends US states have when it comes to utilizing volunteers in government.

“Volunteerism is a universal tool in strengthening communities and is the very core that our community sectors need to survive and grow. States are increasingly relying on volunteers to support their government, businesses and community-based organizations. States are just now becoming aware of volunteers and their capacity do the hard work of caring for others when state and local resources are not available,” Caldwell stated.

According to the 2004 US Census, only 28% of American’s said they participated in community service activities. Maine is unique in that it is well above that average with 64% of its citizens volunteering their time

(2003, Maine Marks). It is a trend the Maine Commission would like to see continue.

“The conversations from today’s discussions and the information provided by our speakers will be extremely beneficial to us as we explore ways to strengthen and align Maine’s voluntary and non-profit sectors with the needs of the people of Maine,” said Gagnon, “Today is a very important day to the Commission and to Mainers as we work towards continuing our state’s time honored tradition of service to one’s community while examining the benefits to enhancing government resources.”

The service symposium, titled, “Together By Design: Lessons from Canada’s Voluntary Sector Initiative,” was sponsored by Irving Woodlands, a division of J.D. Irving Limited, a private family-owned company based in Saint John, New Brunswick. Community Relations Coordinator for the company, Hope Kelly, spoke to the crowd on the importance of Irving Woodland’s sponsorship of the event.

“We believe there is enormous potential for people to make a positive difference and that collaboration between government agencies, non-profit organizations and the business sector is the key to tapping into this talent and being a catalyst for change.”

The service symposium was such a success that Canadian officials have asked MCCS to assemble a US delegation of experts to attend and present at a follow-up conference in New Brunswick in August of 1006.■

Canadian/U.S. Conference

FOR EVERY COUNTRY,
FOR EVERY CITIZEN,
VOLUNTEER SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL.

Canadian/U.S Voluntary Sector Symposium COMING AUGUST 2006

Following a successful U.S. symposium, Policy New Brunswick will be hosting a follow-up conference in their province. The Maine Commission for Community Service is forming a delegation of strategic thinkers and policy makers in the area of volunteerism to attend. If you are interested in participating, please contact us at 207.287.8931.


POLICY LINK N.B.
CONCERTATION SUR LES
POLITIQUES AU N.-B.





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C



D

Governor's Service Awards

A. Maine's 100 Honorable Mentions are greeted in the Governor's Cabinet Room.

B. Youth Volunteer of the Year Kevin Foster of Cumberland is congratulated by the Governor and Congressman Michaud.

C. Peacock Productions of Gardiner accepts the Outstanding Non-Profit Service Award.

D. Dr. Diane Schetky receives the Public Sector Volunteer Award.

E. The Volunteer Administrators award goes to Terry Fullam Hodskins of Alfred.

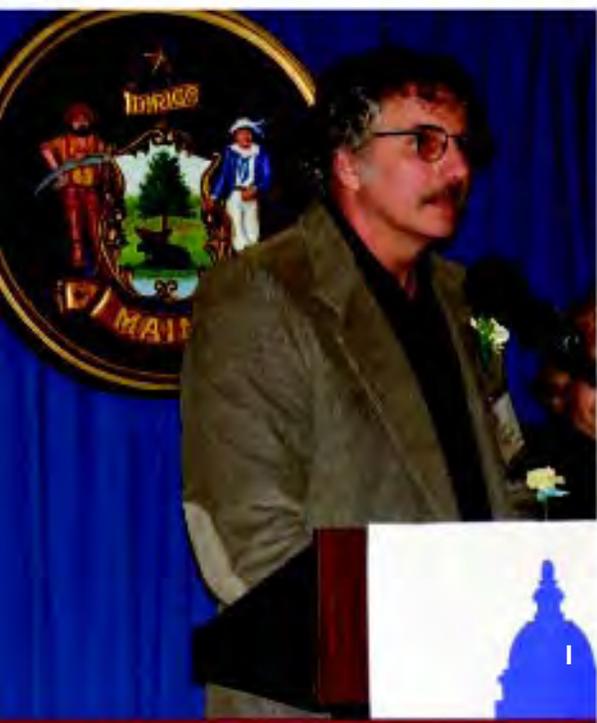
F. Tim Uli of Uli and Sons accepts the Small Business Volunteerism Award.

G. Winners from the Stanza for Service music Contest are congratulated at the event.

H. Over 300 people attended the 2005 ceremony.



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G



H

Every year the Governor of Maine honors citizens whose volunteer work is both significant and an example for others to emulate. Administered jointly by the Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) and the Maine Volunteer Connection (MVC), the Governor's Service Awards are an important avenue to recognize Maine's most dedicated volunteers.

From October to January, nominations are submitted by members of the public (although they usually come through the volunteer program in which the nominee serves). Winners are selected based on criteria which includes length of service, the impact of their volunteerism and recommendations from peers.

In April 2005, Governor Baldacci was joined by Congressman Michaud, MVC Board Member Irv Marsters, MCCS Vice Chair Paula Gagnon and Joni Averill of the Bangor Daily News to present the awards. Over 300 people were in attendance at the State House ceremony.

At the event, the Governor paid special recognition to Maine's 100 (honorable mentions), the winners of the Stanza for Service Music Contest, and the five individuals and three organizations who received top honors. They included:

Volunteer of the Year – Walter Leffler (Wells) for volunteering his professional expertise in excess of 1,300 hours a year to various agencies in southern Maine including The Wells Reserve, The American Diabetes Foundation and Southern Maine Medical Center.

Excellence in Volunteer Administration – Terry Fullum Hodskins (Alfred) for founding and administering the Wrap-A-Smile Project, an internationally known volunteer project that has provided over 3,900 handmade quilts to children in the remote areas of Southern America and Asia who undergo cleft lip and palate surgery.

Youth Volunteer of the Year – Kevin Foster (Cumberland) for volunteering with multiple programs in his community including the Bigs and Littles Program, Special Olympics, and the Cumberland Fire Department.

National Service Volunteer – Lela Mitchell (Harrington) for volunteering over 13,520 hours in the past 14 years with the Senior Corps Senior Companions Program.

Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer – Dr. Diane Schetky (Rockport), former Maine State Prison psychiatrist, for volunteering her time and expertise to the prison's Hospice Bereavement Program.

Small Business Volunteerism – Tim Uli (Kittery) for donating his time to upholster adaptive furniture for children with disabilities for The Kids' Project.

Corporate Volunteerism – The Sun Journal (Lewiston) for encouraging their staff to volunteer over 400 hours of community service a month and donating advertising space to over 80 local non-profit organizations.

Non-Profit Certificate of Excellence – Peacock Productions (Gardiner), a female impersonation theatrical troupe, for performing several fundraising shows a year that benefit community, civic, and health-related nonprofit organizations.



Roll of Honor

The event also paid tribute to Maine's Roll of Honor, recognizing individuals who have volunteered 500 or more hours of documented service to their communities during the course of twelve months. Recipients from the following programs were named to the honor roll:

Aroostook Retired Senior Volunteers Program, Penquis CAP Foster Grandparents, Mayo Regional Hospital, Mercy Health Systems, UMaine Center on Aging, Retired Senior Volunteers Program of Southern Maine, Sweetser, Southern Maine Medical Center, Penquis CAP, Pejepsco Historical Society, United Way of Mid Maine, Sexual Assault Crisis and Support, SeniorsPlus, Senior Spectrum, Hawthorne House, Aroostook Workforce Investment Board, and the Waldo County YMCA.

ABOVE:
Walter Leffler, Maine's 2005 Volunteer of the Year, is a retiree who donates his professional engineering expertise to southern Maine nonprofits who might otherwise not be able to afford the services he provides.

volunteerism conference

The Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism is Maine's oldest statewide professional development conference for volunteer directors, board members, sponsors, funders and partners of service programs.



On October 13th, Governor Baldacci welcomed 163 participants to the 19th annual Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism held at the Augusta Civic Center. The event, hosted jointly by the Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Volunteer Connection, is the state's oldest professional development conference. "Maine's reputation as a place where citizens are involved, meeting their civic responsibilities, and concerned about their neighbors is one that others envy," Governor Baldacci remarked, "That good fortune needs to be nurtured."



The conference's keynote speaker, Dr. John Throop, Executive Director of the Association of Volunteer Administrations (AVA) gave an inspiring and motivational speech on the ethics and importance of volunteer assignments. AVA is the national accreditation agency for volunteer managers. After his address to conference attendees, Dr. Throop presented a workshop on "Activating Faith-Based Volunteers in Rural Settings."

Other workshops offered included: Making the Board and Committee Structure Work; Revisiting the Board-Staff Relationship; Working with Volunteers Who Have Disabilities; How to Market and Get Publicity on a Shoestring Budget; Working with Volunteers in the Mental Health Setting; Cultivating and Harvesting Community Support; What Motivates People to Volunteer; Great Graphics Design; and How to Use VolunteerMaine.org as an online recruiting tool.

The Blaine House Conference is the only statewide conference that provides training and technical assistance to Maine's volunteer administrators, program directors, and partners. The annual event now enters its 20th year. ■

TOP RIGHT: Conference attendees take part in a hands on session on graphic design.

TOP: Dr. John Throop delivers his keynote address to 163 conference participants.

BOTTOM: During the lunch hour, over 20 Maine AmeriCorps members were sworn in by former AmeriCorps*VISTA and Maine Commission for Community Service Board Member, Amy Nunan. The newly sworn members will be placed throughout Maine for a year of service.

Operation keepMEwarm



RIGHT: Volunteers cut plastic sheeting to be placed around the base of a mobile home. The plastic prevents drafts from entering the base of the home.

In its second year, Operation KeepMEwarm once again reached out and winterized the homes of over 2,600 of Maine's most vulnerable citizens. With the rising cost of oil, over 51,000 Mainers applied for the home heating assistance program, LIHEAP, in 2006. Operation KeepMEwarm was designed to lessen the burden for homeowners who would struggle through the winter to heat their homes. The effort relies primarily on volunteers who donate their time to weatherize the homes of low income senior citizens and families and assist them in preparing for what could be a long, cold winter.

Thousands of Mainers face high heating oil prices. According to the Maine Community Action web-site, last year Maine was able to provide \$480 per household in heating fuel assistance to 51,000 Maine people. For the 2005-2006 winter, the Housing Authority projected it will only be able to provide \$435. The average benefit will only buy 179 gallons of fuel, not enough to fill an oil tank one time.

To assist with the project, the Maine Commission for Community Service organized over 1,600 volunteers to install the weatherizations kits. Teams of volunteers installed door, window, pipe insulation, and energy efficient light bulbs. They also talked with homeowners about energy conservation, winter safety and public assistance programs available to them.

The \$60 weatherization kits, provided to the State at a discount through area businesses, will provide electricity and heating fuel cost savings of about \$250 a year. The kits included weather stripping, plastic, caulking, furnace filters, pipe insulation, wall switch gaskets and compact fluorescent light bulbs. The Maine National Guard, a Red Cross

PrepareME AmeriCorps member, and the Maine Department of Transportation worked with the Maine Commission for Community Service to coordinate the delivery of materials for the kits to locations statewide.

The mission was successful as over 2,600 Maine homes were weatherized through the collaboration of public and private organizations as well as the 1,600 volunteers who gave their time to help neighbors in need.

"This program's success was due to the hard work of many volunteers who spent their weekends and evenings, many of whom even took time off from work, to complete it," remarked Governor Baldacci.

As Operation KeepMEwarm enters its third year, an expansion of the program, the Operation KeepMEwarm fund, has been created by the Governor to deal with the rising cost of home heating fuel in the future. Donations from private citizens and businesses will be collected throughout the year and will be distributed to local agencies helping with heating assistance. ■



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Day of Service

In 2005, The Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) provided mini-grants to eight community service projects across the state in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy. Funded service projects took place January 17th through January 31st, and allowed participants to create and implement service projects that not only impacted their communities, but celebrated Dr. King and his commitment to service, non-violence and diversity. The following community service projects were funded in 2005:

Training Resource Center and the **Portland Housing Authority** sponsored a two day resume workshop where area youth and employees assisted local residents, especially those with language barriers, on how to prepare a resume and complete internet job searches.

Spiral Arts received funding for its Creative Reflections Program. A collaboration among adult volunteers, at-risk children, and teens from the PROP Peer Leader Program, participants crafted three-dimensional clay tiles highlighting Martin Luther King's teachings and placed them in various locations throughout the city of Portland.

Lots to Gardens used its grant to assist students in creating a play based on the teachings of Dr. King. Youth volunteers performed their skit for local elementary students and at the Many & One Coalition's Multi-Cultural Festival.

The **University of New England** hosted its annual READ IN. UNE College Community Mentors read level-appropriate books concerned with civil rights, African-American history and Martin Luther King Jr. to K-8th graders.

The **Ellsworth High School Key Club** read to the children of their local after school program and conducted activities that stress the importance of diversity.

Freeport Student Aspiration Partnership organized groups of student volunteers and matched them with various community sites around Freeport to complete service-oriented tasks. Service projects included sorting clothing at the local thrift shop, preparing frozen meals for the local food pantry, and visiting with nursing home residents.

The **Fort Fairfield High School Civil Rights Team** cut and assembled twin-sized blankets for teens that stay at the Youth Crisis Center. Students also purchased and delivered books that emphasized the importance of cultural diversity, tolerance and acceptance.

The **Sumner Memorial High School Civil Rights Team** conducted a civil rights awareness campaign during the week prior to MLK Day. The campaign led up to the team spending a day working at a local food pantry and then hosting an Oxfam Hunger banquet which raised funds for the relief organization which is committed to developing lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social justice. ■





Celebrating Diversity

In the spirit of diversity, the Commission awarded three disability mini-grants to create unique service opportunities for people with disabilities.

This year the Commission sponsored a mini-grant competition to encourage AmeriCorps programs to involve individuals and groups with disabilities in the planning, organization, and implementation of community service projects that benefit communities where AmeriCorps members are placed. Three AmeriCorps members were given \$500 grants towards their disability service projects.

Bristol School Builds Accessibility Trail

Erin Jordan
Community Resource Corps

Students at the Bristol School in Damariscotta built a handicapped accessible trail behind the school to allow people with disabilities to access an erosion control project that students are undertaking along a stream adjacent to the school. Students assessed the needs of a peer with a disability, designed the trail to suit the student's needs, and implemented the project. In addition, they also conducted erosion control measures along the stream once the trail was complete.

Morris Farm Project

Matt Loosigian
Maine Conservation Corps

Farm volunteers with disabilities worked with AmeriCorps members to improve the water quality at Morris Farm. Together they created a buffer between a cow pasture and a stream.

Also involved with the project were students at the farm as they assisted with the planning and conducting of educational segments on disability, environmental education and working with tools.

Making the Wadsworth Longfellow House Accessible

Sarah Margolis-Pineo
Community Resource Corps

Touching Maine History created interpretative materials for the blind and visually impaired so that they can enjoy the Wadsworth Longfellow House in Portland. Training was provided for volunteer docents to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired museum patrons.

GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE:

JANET MAY, Center for Community Inclusion;
CYNTHIA SUDHEIMER, Former VISTA
WALT ROSEN, Maine Commission for Community Service

For more information on how you can help persons with disabilities, contact the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies at 207.581.1084 or 1.800.203.6957



TOP: A nature trail is made accessible for wheelchairs.
ABOVE: A volunteer assists with the reading of a braille document.

VolunteerMaine



In October 2005, Governor John Baldacci and representatives from the Volunteer Maine Partnership introduced a new online database for volunteering. **VolunteerMaine.org**, Maine's first ever statewide volunteer database, is a central place for nonprofit organizations, emergency management and civic organizations to list their volunteer needs. The website also serves as a virtual volunteer center providing individuals with a comprehensive database where they can search for volunteer opportunities by skill, area of interest, time availability, and zip code. In addition to serving as a search engine, nonprofit organizations can login to post their volunteer needs, list needed donated items, track volunteers and the hours they serve, and post and search for board members.

VolunteerMaine.org was developed and is maintained by the VolunteerMaine Partnership which includes the ten United Ways of Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service, the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Volunteer Organizations Active In Disaster (VOAD), 2-1-1 Maine, and the Board Network. Sponsors of the site are the National Emergency Response Team, Clear Channel and WCSH6.

Brian Gallagher, President and CEO of United Way of America is enthusiastic about Maine's innovative, new program. "As evident by Hurricane Katrina, it is imperative that systems and structures be in place to assist residents when needed. I applaud the VolunteerMaine Partnership's proactive stance in this important matter."

In the fall of 2005, the Partnership joined forces with sponsors Clear Channel and WCSH6 to market the site to the public. Through the use of television spots and radio PSA's traffic on the site has risen exponentially. It now has over 2,600 volunteers and 600 agencies registered, and the site itself is registering over 9,700 hits a month.

In addition to maintenance of the website, the Partnership continues to offer trainings to non-profits, emergency management personnel, and civic organizations on how to register on the site and utilize its volunteer management tools.

It is also working towards expanding the site to meet the needs of emergency agencies during a disaster. "Emergency preparedness is everybody's business. VolunteerMaine and its emergency module will make it easier and more streamlined for agencies to get their word out and for volunteers to connect to them in the event of a disaster whether it be local or statewide," remarks Dorothy Grannell, Project Coordinator for the VolunteerMaine partnership.

Maine is one of the few, if not the first, to launch a statewide volunteering database. Other states, including Massachusetts, are now following Maine's lead and creating virtual statewide databases in their own home states.

Volunteers are necessary for most nonprofit organizations to stay in business. According to the Independent Sector's 2001 Giving and Volunteering Survey, 83.9 million American adults over age 21 volunteered 3.6 hours per week in 2000, which was the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a total assigned dollar value of \$239 billion. ■

BELOW: Directors of the Partnership kick off the web-site with the Governor. From left to right: Bob Van Deventer (VOAD), Lynette Miller (MEMA), Kathryn Davis (United Way), Governor Baldacci, Maryalice Crofton (MCCS) and Dorothy Grannell.



The Partners

- Ten United Ways of Maine
- Maine Commission for Community Service
- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- Volunteers Organized Against Disaster
- 2-1-1 Maine
- The Board Network

Sponsors

- National Emergency Response Team
- Clear Channel
- WCSH6

For more information on how you can register to be a volunteer or post a volunteer opportunity visit:

VolunteerMaine.org



Dorothy Grannell shows Governor Baldacci around VolunteerMaine.org

In 2005, the Eagle VII AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) from the Northeast Region's Perry Point, MD campus arrived in Maine to assist the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed for ten weeks.





A look at National Service

**Opportunities to Enrich Lives,
Improve Communities, and
Build a Stronger America.**

The Corporation for National and Community Service was formed to engage Americans in service to meet community needs. Each year, more than 1.5 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds help communities through a wide array of service opportunities. These include projects in education, environment, public safety, homeland security and other critical areas met through the Corporation's three major programs: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and Senior Corps.

AMERICORPS: AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans to make an ongoing, intensive commitment to service. AmeriCorps has three divisions.

*AmeriCorps*State and National* offers grants that support a broad range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive service to meet critical community needs. AmeriCorps*State and National also administers grants for Indian tribes and U.S. territories, who are eligible for funding that is set aside to address critical needs within their communities.

*AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)* provides full-time members to community organizations and public agencies to create and expand programs that build capacity and ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty.

*AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)* is a full-time residential program for men and women aged 18-24 that strengthens communities while developing leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.

LEARN & SERVE AMERICA: Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, higher education institutions and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers and others in service to meet community needs.

SENIOR CORPS: Senior Corps offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges. Senior Corps is comprised of three main programs.

Foster Grandparents connects volunteers age 60 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs.

Senior Companions brings together volunteers age 60 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living.

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) offers opportunities for all volunteers 55 and over who want to find challenging, rewarding, and significant service opportunities in their local communities utilizing their professional experience and skills.

Understanding the Numbers

In 2005, The Maine Commission for Community Service awarded six AmeriCorps state grants totalling \$851,425. The six programs selected to receive funds were chosen for their statewide impact and ability to increase capacity for communities in the area of health, environment, housing youth service and public safety. Each program was selected, in part, because it met a need identified in the MCCS strategic plan.

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>CNCS Funds</u>	<u>Members</u>
Community Resource Corps	\$ 200,000	17.2
Emergency Response Corps	\$ 175,600	14
Island Institute (Ed Award only)	\$ 12,000	12
Maine Conservation Corps	\$ 87,499	12.5
Maine Independence Corps	\$ 248,340	20
Maine Rural Health Corps	\$ 127,986	10
TOTALS	\$851,425	85.7

Leveraging Higher Education

After completing a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an educational award that can be used to pay off student loans or be applied to future tuition costs. People who serve 1,700 hours in a service year qualify for an educational award of \$4,725 while those who serve part time or less qualify for a pro-rated award. In 2005, Maine AmeriCorps members earned \$181,496 in educational awards.

**2005 Education Awards Earned:
\$181,496**

Qrt. time: \$2,126	Part time: \$3,545	Full time: \$174,825
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Community Service Catalyst

AmeriCorps not only builds stronger communities, but as part of its mission, members must mobilize local citizens to serve as volunteers alongside them. In 2005, Maine's 40 enrolled members recruited 743 volunteers (a ratio of 1:18) who contributed 6,297 additional hours of community service.

I'll Give You a \$1.16 for that Dollar!

Federal AmeriCorps funds require local matching through cash or in-kind support from the sponsoring organization and partners that host individual AmeriCorps Members. For every federal dollar that came into Maine in 2005, our six grantees were able to match it by 116% with local cash and in-kind support. That means a \$1.16 for every dollar!

AmeriCorps
State & National



**“You must be the change you
wish to see in the world.
—Mahatma Gandhi**

AmeriCorps engages Americans age 17 and older (no upper age limit) in intensive service to meet community education, environmental, public safety, homeland security, and human needs. It is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs.

AmeriCorps members serve with more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service.

Terms of service range from full-time (1700 hours in 12 months) to seasonal (300 hours in 3 months). In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. The value of an education award for full-time service is \$4,725. AmeriCorps members who serve full-time also receive a living allowance, health care, and are eligible for child care assistance if it is needed.

In Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service is responsible for ensuring the success of our State and National AmeriCorps programs. As the state liaison to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Commission holds an AmeriCorps grant competition whereby non-profit organizations and units of state and local government are eligible to apply. Funds are awarded for three types of programs: educational awards, planning grants and program operations.

In 2005, MCCS granted six AmeriCorps state grants. Those grants went to the Training Resource Center for the AmeriCorps programs, Community Resource Corps and Emergency Response Corps (pg.29); Island Institute for the AmeriCorps Fellows Program (pg.30); Maine Department of Labor for the Maine Conservation Corps (pg.31); CEI for the Maine Independence Corps (pg.32); and Maine Primary Care Association for their Maine Rural Health Corps (pg.33).

In addition to administering the state competitive grants, MCCS selects proposed AmeriCorps programs to submit to the national competition. Maine currently has one national AmeriCorps program operating in the state called the Downeast Rural Health Corps located at the Regional Medical Center in Lubec (pg.33).

From time to time, AmeriCorps*NCCC teams will come to Maine to help a community on a critical task. These teams usually come from Northeast Region's Perry Point, Maryland, and spend 8-10 weeks in the community. This year, the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed hosted a NCCC team under the guidance of the Community Resource Corps. (pg.33) ■

Community Resource Corps and Emergency Response Corps

The **Community Resource Corps (CRC)** is an AmeriCorps program with 17.2 members serving in communities throughout Southern, Western, and Coastal Maine. Housed under the Training Resource Center, AmeriCorps members are hosted by local non-profit organizations with a youth focus. Their volunteer assignment is to expand the organization's number of youth engaged in community service projects.

Perhaps one of the most amazing attributes of the Community Resource Corps and its members is their ability to recruit community volunteers to participate in their projects. Since August 2005, CRC's members have recruited over 556 volunteers. These volunteers have in turn donated over 4,200 hours of additional community service to their communities.

Unbeknownst to the public, members and their volunteers are completed service projects every day. CRC Member Josh Boucher, placed with the Communities Promoting Health Program of PROP, described the following community service project he lead with a group of local high school students.

"A group of nine at-risk high school students from the Scarborough Leadership and Resiliency Program participated in this year's KeepME warm effort. Together, along with myself and two other adult chaperones, the students managed to winterize a total of ten households for elderly people in need. The students were all very humble about their good deeds and the recipients were extremely gracious. I think this experience was not only an excellent opportunity for the kids to help people and grow a sense of community pride, but it opened their eyes to an entirely different side of the community they might not have seen."

In an amazing feat, Member Kaylyn Pallela, placed with the Compass Project in Portland, and her youth volunteers built a fully operational fishing vessel.

"The week following Thanksgiving, we hosted ten Freshman from the new ELOB (Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound) high school for an intensive week building two 14' Bevin's Skiffs. On Friday afternoon the skiffs were launched, complete with a soda water christening, a traditional blessing, parent attendance and

local press coverage. I spent weeks preparing a modified building schedule and adding other maritime-related projects for students to pursue in case of unforeseen lag time (paint drying, building phases that could not include everyone). One of the skiffs we built was donated to Maine Coast Lumber to raise funds for an employee who was diagnosed with cancer days before his insurance took effect."

Two members of CRC applied for and



received mini-grants to implement service projects that included persons with disabilities (pg. 23). With the funds, two members and their volunteers made a nature trail handicapped accessible and the Maine Historical Society provided materials for the visually impaired.

The Training Resource Center recently received a three year \$1.5 million AmeriCorps grant for 2006 to expand Community Resource Corps statewide. In addition to providing youth service opportunities, CRC will focus on health care, home energy conservation and affordable housing service projects.

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Emergency Response Corps, also managed through the Training Resource Center, aims to provide emergency services to rural areas in Maine. Host sites are located in Phillips, Winthrop, Durham,

Raymond, and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation.

This year members worked to educate the public on safety and prevention issues. One of the main projects members worked on was KeepME warm. Honing their recruitment skills, members secured volunteers to assist with winterizing the homes of the elderly. They also used the opportunity to discuss with homeowners health and safety risks as well as how to stay warm and utilize the 911 emergency system if needed.

Throughout the year, other presentation by members were done in the form of teaching CPR and First Aid to childcare providers and other community citizens. They also provided direct emergency services to the communities they served. Their efforts often times save lives.

During a two day period, Phillips experienced power outages due to weather situations. In an effort to provide reassurance to some of the seniors who are on oxygen at all times, Penny and Don Salm, members placed at the Northstar Phillips Ambulance Service, stopped by the homes of these seniors to change over their O2 systems to their portable systems.

"There was even one lady who had gotten her electric distribution system a few days prior and had never been shown how to switch it from electric to battery," recalls Penny, "She was in a near panic when we arrived and was preparing to call 911 for assistance."

The success of ERC has led to the Training Resource Center receiving a national planning grant. This grant from the Corporation will allow them to explore the possibility of expanding the ERC program to serve other New England states. Close communications have already begun with emergency service agencies in Vermont and New Hampshire.

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Island Institute Fellows Program

**Sustaining the Islands
and Communities
of the Gulf of Maine**



The Island Institute is a membership-based community development organization focused on the Gulf of Maine, particularly the fifteen year-round island communities off the Maine coast. The Insititutes Fellows Program provides educational awards to 12 AmeriCorps members who live and serve in Maine's Island communities. The AmeriCorps Fellows help carry out local priorities ranging from natural resource mapping, website development, marine resources research, community comprehensive planning, arts and theater education, and school library enhancement.

One of the greatest challenges AmeriCorps Members on the islands face is integrated themselves into the community. With such tight-knit residents, it is often difficult for an outsider to come onto an island, much less be there to offer assistance. However, combining the reputation of the Island Institute with the outstanding members, integration has proven to be a limited challenge.

"I feel completely integrated into the community. A few people have even commented that they feel like I've 'been here forever,' and said that they 'can't imagine what they are going to do here without me,' at various times, which I feel is quite a compliment. While very welcoming, this is a pretty insular community in many respects, so I feel like it is quite a compliment that people consider that I belong here. Of course, now I have to deal with leaving in less than a year," says Cyrus Moulton, Cranberry Isles Fellow.

The work of the Fellows is invaluable. Living on an island is not easy and services and resources are often limited for locals due to many factors; that is why the Fellows are instrumental in helping islands remain sustainable. Members are collaborating in community planning; providing acting, instrumental and choral music lessons to community members; revitalizing school libraries by expanding the current collection and creating new programs for teachers and students; contributing to regional planning efforts by local land trusts, water companies, and harbor committees by mapping resources; supporting marine resource research and monitoring projects; and much more.

Talk to any Fellow and you will see that the impact they are having on Maine's island communities has changed them as well. "I'm running an after school ice hockey program for the island kids this winter at the skating pond. I've learned to volunteer or go to meetings whenever I'm available, such as helping at the senior citizens lunches each month, volunteering at the recreation center on Wednesdays when the island school has a half day, attending meetings about secession, and just going for coffee at the island market each morning. I'm sure that the summer months will bring new challenges for feeling connected, as the population more than triples, yet I am having a great time

understanding life on Chebeague during the winter months," comments Carly Knight, Chebeague Island Fellow.

The success of the program relies on the human contact between the Fellows and island residents. It is a special relationship that provides the islands with additional resources to address their critical needs while providing members with the AmeriCorps experience.

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Maine Conservation Corps

SERVE/Maine Environmental Educator and Volunteer Leader (SMEEVL)

Maine Conservation Corps' (MCC) AmeriCorps members provide environmental education in and out of schools, assist with resource protection activities, community outreach, and volunteer recruitment. MCC and its members address Maine's need to minimize environmental pollution and focus on environmental protection problems identified by communities.

Members all over the state serve on environmental and conservation projects with positions ranging from three to ten month commitments. Some members serve individually at agencies and nonprofits to address resource issues and educate Maine citizens, and others serve on Field Teams constructing and rehabilitating trails and trail structures.

The work the MCC crew does is intense and a great deal of their time is spent educating young students on such complicated issues as geomorphology and water sampling. Yet, the members have a unique talent for helping young students understand their work. At the Chewonki Stream Survey Education Lab, students participated in a Rapid Geomorphic Assessment of Warren Brook and attended a macro-invertebrate lab where they sampled various portions of the stream, identified species, and compared diversity among sites. The combination of these two activities increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activity and environmental variables on water quality within a watershed. Students were excited to participate in these hand-on activities. Many asked advanced, complex questions and demonstrated an excellent understanding of information provided with a little assistance from their AmeriCorps mentor.

A terrific example of a member's work with a class directly linked to the classes' participation in a community service project is the Carrie-Riker Middle School project. A member is helping the students at the school analyze data they collected from nearby Woodbury Pond and brainstorm ways that the pollutants in the run-off from the boat ramp area could be reduced by altering the ground covers. Students will assist in developing plans to reduce the amount of run-off from the land into the pond via restoration projects funded by the DEP's Watershed Protection Grant.

Recently, Member Michael Dennett appeared on Channel 5 in Bangor bringing recognition to his work at the Bangor Children's Museum. "The faculty at the Bangor Museum have been wonderful to work with and are excited to have me aboard. Currently I am in the process of organizing a water weekend (Jan 14- 16, 2006) where I will be in charge of running several activities and games where young children can learn about watersheds, pollution, and the water cycle. It is my hope that through good organization and press I can educate and stimulate kids from various communities and hopefully spark their interest," Michael remarked.

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Since 1996, the Maine Independence Corps has collaborated on over 247 projects using 134,323 hours of AmeriCorps service.

Maine Independence Corps (MIC) is an AmeriCorps program with Coastal Enterprises Inc. Its mission is to help elderly and disabled people with low incomes remain independent in their homes. The program currently has 20 AmeriCorps members who serve in one of two ways: 1) Members can serve as independent placements with local community partners such as housing authorities, municipal government programs or private, nonprofit organizations which focus on a similar mission as MIC, or 2) Members serve on a hands-on crew which builds wheelchair ramps, rehabilitate homes and participates in Habitat For Humanity.

Throughout the years, MIC has collaborated on over 247 projects using 134,323 hours of AmeriCorps service and 37,944 hours of non-AmeriCorps volunteer service. More than 10,000 contacts for information and referral resources have been made to elderly people, and at least 425 activities for the elderly have been conducted. 315 homes have been weatherized for the cold winter; 44 wheelchair ramps have been completed, allowing people with disabilities the opportunity to get out of their houses; 93 rooms have been totally rehabilitated; and 7 group homes and/or homeless shelters have been rehabilitated.

This year two members at the Brunswick Planning Office are providing support for senior citizens projects in area while the town deals with the recent closing of the naval air station. The mid-coast communities of Damariscotta and Bristol have benefitted from the Member serving with the Community Housing improvement Program (CHIP). As the price of heating fuels rise, the Member has been able to get large donations of wood, oil and kerosene for residents who might otherwise fall between the cracks and suffer from the cold winter. A member serving at The Carpenter's Boat Shop has provided over 1800 pounds of winter harvest for low-income elderly and disabled residents of the area to eat and vitalize their daily menus, and Jessica Tysen, Executive Director of Coastal Economic Development, states that the members placed at her site who received pre-service training on

energy conservation projects have had much success in making their clients feel energy conscious and lowering their energy costs.

The list of accomplishments is extensive, but perhaps the most meaningful success of the program is the impact on the members and the people they help.

Sam Thomas, an AmeriCorps Member who serves on the wheelchair ramp crew, had never been inside a prison before. Sam was offered a chance to visit with Lester, a confused elderly man arrested for a minor crime who was brought to the attention of the Maine Independence Corps by a local social worker. Lester needed some human socialization while waiting for his trial at the Lincoln County Jail in Wiscasset. Sam was a bit timid with Lester at first, but as the daily visits continued, Sam became more open, as did Lester, and a friendship was formed. Sam visited Lester seven days a week for three weeks. He read to him, brought him candy and newspapers and spoke of his family and friends. All this attention did miracles for Lester, who was finally able to work with a community lawyer, explain his case, create some order out of the confusion and go to court where he received a suspended sentence. The friendship continues.

Sunni Busch had been serving as an AmeriCorps Member assigned to the Lewiston Housing Authority for almost two years. Her responsibilities included senior activities and events and information and referral. In November of 2004, she was approached by an elderly woman named Emily. Emily asked Sunni in the greatest of confidentiality if she would help teach her to read and write. After several long discussions, Sunni decided to take on the challenge Emily presented to her. The two met in Emily's apartment several times a week for 13 months. In December 2005, Emily read a children's book to her six year old great-granddaughter for the very first time, proof that AmeriCorps members change lives.

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Downeast Community HealthCorps

Located at the Regional Medical Center in Lubec, Downeast Community HealthCorps is funded by a National Direct AmeriCorps grant. AmeriCorps Members link individuals in underserved communities with health centers through referral, education, and follow-up programs. Members also refer primary care patients to other health and social service organizations. Assignments include youth services, elder outreach, HIV education, tobacco and substance abuse prevention, medicaid outreach, and a focus on building safer communities.

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Maine Rural Health Corps

Maine Rural Health Corps is managed through the Maine Primary Care Association and aims to serve rural areas with preventative health care measures. AmeriCorps members work with community-based organizations and assist with integrating primary care with other healthy community and prevention collaborations. Members focus on health care issues such as mental health, and tobacco and substance abuse. Site locations include: Eagle Lake, Patten, Calais, Harrington, Skowhegan, Waterville, Augusta.

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AmeriCorps*NCCC

Since 2003, teams from the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Northeast Region's Perry Point, Maryland have come to Maine to assist the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. Since their arrival membership of the Friends has increased from 71 members to over 4,000. They have assisted in the completion of 75 shoreline stabilization projects on 10 bodies of water; secured 1.75 miles of shoreline; installed 1600 tons of rip-rap, 1250 shrubs, 315 yards of mulch; and helped secure funding of a Youth Conservation Corps, comprised of local high school youth who worked side-by-side with the AmeriCorps volunteers. Having also initiated the "keeping invasive aquatic plants out" program, members enabled the watershed to grow their volunteer base for the aquatic life program from 14 in 2003 to 177 individuals in 2005.

AmeriCorps*VISTA (*Volunteers in Service to America*) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. AmeriCorps*VISTA members leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the capacity of low-income communities to solve local problems.

AmeriCorps
VISTA



Prepare ME (American Red Cross) This VISTA project facilitates a unified and cohesive infrastructure to match volunteers to volunteer opportunities throughout Maine in order to mobilize communities to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters of all kinds. Organizations that host VISTA members include: Maine Emergency Management Agency, the State Citizen Corps Council, RSVP project sponsors, County Emergency Management Agencies, and American Red Cross Chapter sites. Contact: Anne Houle, 207.329.4572, ahoule@hollins.edu

Maine Campus Compact is a statewide coalition of colleges and universities established to encourage and enhance campus engagement in the community. The MCC AmeriCorps VISTA program is part of the Campus Compact Northern New England AmeriCorps VISTA collaboration with state affiliates in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. It is based on a mutual interest in supporting service focused on anti-poverty measures at the more than 70 colleges and universities in their collective memberships. Contact: Liz McCabe Park, 207.786.8216, epark@bates.edu.

Senior \$ense (UMaine Center on Aging) This VISTA program places members in a broad spectrum of community organizations across the state. Members are responsible for devel-

oping innovative strategies for delivering customized financial and consumer education materials and resources and job training and placement services to low income older adults. The project will also build a comprehensive internet resource site where such resources will be easily available to all older adults, their families, and the health and human service personnel that work with them. Contact: Drew Matlin, 207.581.3461, Andrew_Matlins@umit.maine.edu.

Communities for Children and Youth Coordinated by the Children's Cabinet, Communities for Children brings together the resources of state government with the leadership, organization and concern of local communities to solve problems facing Maine's children and families. The VISTA Project places members on local, regional and state levels with community organizations, regional agencies and state initiatives to assist in creating a strong prevention systems effort addressing problems of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, violence, school drop-out rates, aspirations, and juvenile delinquency. Contact: Chip Curry, 207.287.4341, chip.curry@maine.gov.

Independent Transportation Network The Independent Transportation Network's mission is to provide dignified, economically sustainable transportation for people who are

too old to drive and for the visually impaired. The volunteers' service allows unsafe senior drivers to voluntarily transition to the passenger seat but remain independent in the community when they can no longer drive. VISTA members are expanding ITN's low-income riders program called the "Road Scholarship Program." This program serves low-income seniors needing rides. Contact: Rus Willette, 207.854.0505, rwillette@itninc.org.

Maine Time Banks The mission of Maine Time Dollar Network is to strengthen the informal support systems of family, neighborhood, and community, through a network of Time Dollar exchange programs in Maine. Having created a successful model Time Dollar program in Portland, they have begun to mobilize a statewide network with satellite offices in Rockland, Lewiston, and Caribou. In each of these locations, the Time Dollar project will focus on specific issues of concern to low-income families, seniors and disadvantaged youth. Contact: Auta Main, 207.874.9868, autamain@maine rr.com.

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Service Learning



Service learning offers a unique opportunity for America's young people — from kindergarten to university students — to get involved with their communities in a tangible way by integrating service projects with classroom learning. Service learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become active contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

Service learning can be applied across all subjects and grade levels; it can involve a single student or group of students, a classroom or an entire school. Students build character and become active participants as they work with others in their school and community to create service projects in areas like education, public safety, and the environment.

In Maine, service learning programs are tied to the Maine Learning Results. The activities of these programs are used as strategies to meet those goals. The Maine Department of Education administers K-12 school-based service learning and contracts with KIDS Consortium to provide professional development and technical assistance. Maine Campus Compact manages the higher education Learn and Serve grant.

Learn and Serve grants are used to create new programs or replicate successful ones, as well as to provide training and professional development to staff, faculty and volunteers. All Learn and Serve America projects are required to match federal funds with resources from the community. Highlights from 2005:

Hall of Flags/Project Citizen: On May 6, 2005 KIDS Consortium hosted the 5th Annual Hall of Flags Service Learning and Project Citizen Showcase to honor efforts that support civic participation and promote community involvement. During an awards ceremony, student speakers reflected on their service-learning and Project Citizen experiences. In addition, Maine Department of Education's Commissioner Sue Gendron presented the *KIDS as PLANNERS* student, educator and community partners awards for service learning excellence. KIDS's Director Fran Rudoff presented the Project Citizen awards. KIDS Consortium is Maine's official administrator and trainer for the Center for Civic Education's Project Citizen program. Over 20 teams of elementary, middle, and secondary students from around the state shared project successes and raised awareness about service-learning among state legislators.

Communities ↔ Classrooms: Preparing a New Generation of Active Citizens: On June 27 and 28, over 200 educators, policy makers and representatives of local and state

agencies and nonprofits gathered in the western mountains of Maine to explore the subject of educating young citizens in a democracy. This KIDS Consortium conference featured Keynote Speaker, Robert Putnam, a professor of public policy at Harvard and author of best-seller "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community". Plenary sessions featured Bonnie Benard, Senior Program Associate at WestEd and a national leader and author in the field of prevention and resilience/youth development theory and policy, and Sarah Pearson, Senior Program Associate at American Youth Policy Forum and co-author of "Restoring the Balance Between Academics and Civic Engagement in Public Schools. Conference participants actively engaged in workshops and left with new ideas, resources and networks of like-minded professionals.

On March 31-April 1, 2005, over 225 students, teachers, and community partners from over 15 school districts from around New England gathered at the University of Southern Maine, Gorham Campus for the 2005 "Be the Change" Student Summit on service learning. Students from Greely High School (a Service Learning Leader School) were responsible for planning and organizing the event as a service-learning project for their service-learning class and senior project. KIDS Consortium was their community partner, with KIDS's AmeriCorps*VISTA member Kerry Salvo doing the hands-on planning with students. Service learning project presentations and exhibits were a highlight of the Summit. Some of the projects presented included: edu-

cating about and planting of American Chestnut Trees, raising money for and restoring an antique trolley car while learning about local history, and teaching computer skills to senior citizens.

The Student Summit was a great way for students, educators, and community members to celebrate student achievements and to develop a sense of empowerment as they realized the impact of their projects and their future potential to "be the change"!

"There were so many different projects with so much opportunity, it made me feel like I could do anything!" remarked an 8th grade student.

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Ready? Set. Retire!

Maine's retirees find that they are busier now
as Senior Corps volunteers than when they were working.
Only this type of work pays better.

Senior Corps

State & National



Last year 2,585 Maine Senior Corps members completed 636,564 hours of service. The monetary value of that service equates to \$11,171,698.*

“The first of 77 million baby boomers turn 60 in 2006. They are on the front edge of the largest, healthiest, best educated population of Americans ever to move through and beyond their fifties. They are pioneers in a new stage spanning the decades between middle and late life. Neither young nor old, they represent an extraordinary pool of social and human capital. And, in large numbers, they want to do work that serves a greater good.

Millions are determined to apply their experience to make a difference for others. Some are able to do so as unpaid volunteers. Many are looking to combine aspects of work-income and health benefits-with elements of service through second careers tailored to their interests and circumstances.

But too often, their individual enthusiasm is stymied by perceptions, policies, and practices that discourage the sharing of experience. As a result, this growing number of Americans represents a largely untapped resource in a nation with many unmet needs.

Imagine unleashing their potential.”

-Civic Ventures

By 2030, the number of Americans over 55 is expected to grow to 108 million. That is 48 million more senior citizens in this age group than today. With talk of social security turmoil and growing healthcare costs it is no wonder the phrase “baby boomer” has a negative connotation permanently attached to it. But stop and think about what exactly what we’re talking about.

In the upcoming decades we will see a surge of people exiting the work field. Never before have so many people had so much knowledge, and so much time to use it. Ready and willing to put their experience to good use, the baby boomers of tomorrow will become the volunteer sectors untapped resource. They alone, if cultivated properly, will have the capacity to change the way our communities operate through their volunteer service.

Senior Corps, a national service program funded in part through the federal Corporation for National and Community Service and Maine’s Bureau of Elder and Adult Services (DHHS), recognizes this tremendous resource and is now preparing for the arrival of the boomers. With three distinct subprograms specifically targeting



potential senior volunteers over the age of 55, Senior Corps is a resource for retirees to find meaningful ways to give back to their communities.

Foster Grandparents recruits low-income people age 60 and older to serve children with special needs and their families in schools, daycares, hospitals and homes. In 2005, almost 2,500 children and youth with special needs received one-on-one attention and support through Maine’s two Foster Grandparents programs.

Senior Companions relies on volunteers aged 60 and older living on fixed incomes to serve frail older adults to help them remain independent in their homes. Statewide, 513 older and disabled people received companionship and support for independent living through this program.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) allows more flexibility for seniors to serve. Accepting any senior over the age of 55 and of any income level, RSVP places these volunteers in traditional work settings where they can donate their services and expertise. Last year, RSVP Born to Read volunteers brought the joy of books to 756 pre-school children and facilitated activities to stimulate the development of their literary skills. They also provided over 106,200 nutritious meals to older people throughout Maine and distributed information to over 500 residents on how to be prepared for emergencies.

For more information on Senior Corps, check the directory in the back of this publication for programs in your county or visit www.seniorcorps.org. ■

*Based on the independent sector national rate of \$17.55 per hour

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Sometimes all a Person
Needs is a Helping Hand



Find A Volunteer Opportunity
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